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1968/09/06

SANITIZED Laos

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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O P 060835Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9985
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC 2650

SANITIZED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 91-428
By ns, NARA, Date 3-9-92

~~S E C R E T~~ VIENTIANE 8887

(B)(1)
(A)(5)

EXDIS.

1. [redacted] INFORMED ME THIS MORNING IN GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT [redacted] HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SIHANOUK IS PLANNING SHORTLY TO "ABDICATE" HIS FULL POWERS AND SPEND "PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME" IN FRANCE. HE SAID HE COULD GIVE ME NO RPT NO FURTHER DETAILS BECAUSE INFORMATION CAME FROM VERY SENSITIVE SOURCE.

2. IN SPECULATIVE TENOR, [redacted] CONJECTURED THAT LON NOL WOULD PRESUMABLY INHERIT THE FULL POWER MANDATE AND WOULD BEGIN TO NJTHAN#THINGS UP." HE ASSUMED THIS WOULD MEAN A RAPID SPREAD OF "CIVIL WAR" TO ALL OF CAMBODIA. I SAID I ASSUMED LON NOL WOULD MEET STIFF OPPOSITION FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE AND CHICOMS, BUT THAT HE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE MORE FORTHRIGHT ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA.

3. ALTHOUGH [redacted] DOUBTLESS AWARE OF EUGENE BLACK'S IMPENDING VISIT TO SIHANOUK, I DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION IT [redacted] AND HE DID NOT PRESS ME ABOUT IT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS INFORMATION HAD COME TO HIM ONLY TODAY, SO THAT BLACK'S INVITATION PRESUMABLY ANTEDATES [redacted] REPORT ABOUT SIHANOUK'S PLANS.

GP-3 SULLIVAN

NOTE: #AS RECEIVED.

~~SECRET~~

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